

Q. No, what do you mean? [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, you're a smart guy; read between the lines. No, George Pataki has been a great Governor for New York. I made the announcement today because I had finished the necessary study of the issue, to make sure that we could transfer this property without congressional action. And I believe I can do that. It took a while to take a look at it.

It also requires—I wanted to make sure that the Governor and mayor would be using this property for education purposes. That's what the mayor said he would do; the Governor said he wanted to do that. They took a look at it and decided this is what they wanted to do. And it makes a lot of sense to me, and using it for education purposes will make it easier for me to facilitate the transfer, by the way.

Q. Mr. President, the previous administration didn't want—I was just wondering, what specifically persuaded you?

The President. Well, I took a look at it. I mean, it's a good question. I took a look at it. I listened to what George said. He's my friend; I trust his judgment. I've known him for a long time, and Rudy Giuliani as well—both of them were passionate in their appeal for us to consider transferring Governor's Island. And I knew Mike was very interested in enhancing the quality of education in New York City.

And I took a look at it. I came back—obviously, things didn't happen quickly after September the 15th trip, because we had a lot on our mind. But it took a while to work it through the White House staff, and it arrived on my desk sometime last week. And the recommendation was that we could transfer this property, if that's what I wanted to do. And it's something I want to do, because I think it's going to make the life of a city that has been tragically affected by killers and murderers better. And I think it will enhance the quality of education for the people of New York. And to me, that is a worthwhile and noble cause.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Ara-

bia. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7536—Cancer Control Month, 2002

April 1, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our Nation is making important progress in the fight against cancer. Today, 8.9 million Americans have survived this disease, and new studies indicate that both cancer incidence and death rates have declined in recent years. Research and new technology have helped improve our ability to prevent, detect, and treat cancer. We understand better and are communicating more effectively the preventative power of regular exercise, a balanced diet, not smoking, and greater health awareness. Despite this progress, cancer remains a major public health problem that affects millions of lives.

Each day, more than 1,500 Americans die from cancer and 3,500 are diagnosed with some form of the disease. But we are closing in on major breakthroughs that will lead to new cancer therapies and life-saving cures.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is leading the way as it explores hundreds of methods to combat and prevent cancer. Recognizing that early detection of cancer often makes a difference between life and death, the NCI is utilizing revolutionary genetic and biochemical processes to develop tests that more effectively detect cancer at its earliest stage.

Scientists are discovering that the use of ultraviolet light fluorescence to examine the lungs is more likely to identify precancerous lesions than current techniques. Other NCI researchers are investigating drugs that may

stop cancerous growths by preventing new blood vessels from reaching the tissues. And a new class of drugs, known as bisphosphonates, shows great promise against cancer that has spread to the bone. The NCI's important work, in coordination with other public and private health agencies, is helping to reduce the incidence of cancer and is assisting cancer survivors to lead richer, fuller, and longer lives.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Control Initiative, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is a valuable resource to support and coordinate cancer control efforts at the Federal, State, and local levels. This project helps ensure that cancer prevention, detection, and treatment programs across the country work effectively with each other by reducing duplicated efforts and missed opportunities. My Administration is strongly committed to the fight against cancer and will continue to support Federal cancer control programs.

As we observe Cancer Control Month, I applaud the scientists, healthcare providers, and public health professionals who work tirelessly to find cures for this disease and to aid and assist the patients who suffer from it. I call on all our citizens to learn more about cancer by contacting the NCI's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER or visiting its Internet address at <http://www.cancer.gov>. I also encourage all Americans to protect their health by promoting cancer awareness in their families and communities. Individuals should pursue a lifestyle that includes regular exercise, sufficient consumption of fruits and vegetables, avoidance of tobacco products, and regular age-appropriate cancer screenings. By working together to raise awareness about the risks of cancer and the importance of medical research, we can improve the quality of life for millions of Americans and ultimately defeat this terrible disease.

In 1938, the Congress of the United States passed a joint resolution (52 Stat. 148; 36 U.S.C. 103) as amended, requesting the President to issue an annual proclamation declaring April as "Cancer Control Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by

the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2002 as Cancer Control Month. I call on concerned citizens, government agencies, private industry, nonprofit organizations, and other interested groups to reaffirm our Nation's commitment to preventing and curing cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 9, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 10.

Proclamation 7537—National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2002

April 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every child deserves to be cared for by parents who provide love, protection, and nurturing. Safe and healthy childhoods help produce confident and successful adults. When parents are unable to meet their responsibilities, the consequences are tragic for their children and for society. Nationwide, reports show that more than 879,000 children are victims of child abuse and neglect and approximately 1,200 children die from maltreatment, many at the hands of those who are supposed to protect them.

Children who are abused and neglected often carry the effects of their experiences into adulthood. They are much more likely to experience problems with substance abuse, depression, learning disabilities, and to engage in criminal activities and violence against others, including abuse of their own children. The societal effects of child abuse include the need for increased child welfare services, special education resources, physical and emotional health care services, and juvenile justice facilities.